

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A half-duplex communication control method in which a first device and a second device are connected by two signal lines and each of the two devices notifies the ~~opponent~~ other device of a state as related to whether each device is communicable, and half-duplex communication in one-to-one correspondence is conducted, said method comprising:

~~wherein~~ the first device ~~outputs~~ outputting a sending request output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from the first device to the second device as a sending request signal using an open collector buffer and also ~~turns~~ turning back its sending request output inside the first device to check a communicable state ~~as a sending request input~~ inside the first device, and

if the second device is receivable with respect to the sending request signal sent from the first device, the second device ~~outputs~~ outputting a sending permission output for providing notification of a communicable state from the second device to the first device as a sending permission signal using an open collector buffer and also ~~turns~~ turning back its sending permission output inside the second device to check a communicable state ~~as a sending permission input~~ inside the second device.

2. (previously presented): A half-duplex communication control method as defined in claim 1, wherein with respect to time which elapses before outputting another sending request output if outputting sending request outputs simultaneously from two devices, time respectively

varying with respect to the two devices is randomly determined by a program of a microcomputer.